

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 05389 122224Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10  
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2640  
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO NSC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 5389

USICA FOR AR

NSC FOR PASTOR

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR VE US  
SUBJECT: MORE POLITICAL REACTION TO US BRIEFING PAPERS' FLAP

REFSC (A) CARACAS 5384, (B) CARACAS 5340, (C) CARACAS 5339,  
(D) CARACAS 5335

SUMMARY: FOLLOWING INITIAL ANGRY REACTION, FOREIGN  
MINISTER CONSALVI STATED THAT UPI STORY WILL NOT UNDERMINE  
GOOD BILATERAL RELATIONS AND THAT REPORT COULD WELL BE  
BASED ON INCOMPLETE OR FALSE INFO AND THAT IT DOES NOT  
REFLECT VIEWS OF EITHER PRESIDENT CARTER OR DEPT. OF STATE.  
COMMENTARIES SPECULATE ON MOTIVATION WITH ONE VIEW THAT  
REPORT WAS LEAKED TO INFLUENCE WASHINGTON'S LATIN AMERICAN  
POLICY. ONLY COPEI SECRETARY GENERAL AGUILAR REITERATED  
HIS VIEWS THAT PEREZ HAD OVER-REACTED BY CRITICIZING WIRE  
SERVICES AND SAID THAT EVEN THE MOST "FLOKLOIRC" DICTATORS  
IN LATIN AMERICA WOULD NOT ATTEMPT TO SILENCE INTERNATIONAL  
PRESS AS GOV IS TRYING TO DO. END SUMMARY.

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1. GOV POSITION - FOREIGN MINISTER CONSALVI AND INFO  
MINISTER ARMAS.

IN JUNE 11 INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN "EL UNIVERSAL" FOREIGN  
MINISTER CONSALVI NOTED THAT DOCUMENTS PREPARED FOR STATE  
VISITS ARE OFTEN SUPERFICIAL, OR SOMETIMES WRITTEN TO

INFLUENCE THE PROCESS OF POLICY FORMATION. "OF COURSE, ONE CANNOT DEDUCE FROM THIS MOUNTAIN OF ANONYMOUS PAPER ANY SERIOUS POSITIONS. WE ARE CERTAIN THAT THE UPI REPORT DOES NOT REFLECT IN ANY WAY EITHER THE VIEW OF PRESIDENT CARTER OR THE POSITION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TOWARD VENEZUELA." CONSLAVI THEN SAID THAT RELATIONS HAD BEEN UNEVEN UNDER PRESIDENT FORD BUT "...UNDER PRESIDENT CARTER BILATERAL RELATIONS HAVE BEEN CORDIAL AND FRANK, AND BOTH COUNTRIES AGREE ON FUNDAMENTAL POINTS OF INTERNATIONAL POLICY AS WELL AS ALSO DISAGREEING ON OTHER NO LESS IMPORTANT POINTS." IT IS LOGICAL THAT THIS SHOULD BE SO, SAID CONSLAVI, "...FOR THE RELATIONS BETWEEN A SUPERPOWER AND A DEVELOPING COUNTRY CAN IN ONE SENSE NEVER BE EQUAL. (BUT) I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT (THIS REPORT)...WILL HAVE ANY EFFECT ON RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND VENEZUELA." INFORMATION MINISTER ARMAS WONDERED JUNE 10 WHETHER UPI STORY, ON HEELS OF EARLIER AP (SIC) DESPATCH ABOUT ORINOCO MIGHT NOT CONSTITUTE EFFORT BY WIRE SERVICES TO INFLUENCE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION, AND ADDED THAT UPI STORY DID LITTLE SERVICE TO IMPROVING "THE EXCELLENT RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO DEFEND DEMOCRACY, AND THE SYSTEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS..."

## 2. COMMENTARIES

LUIS ESTEBAN REY, AD DEPUTY AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS PUNDIT,  
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STATED IN HIS "LOSAS" COLUMN JUNE 11 THAT THE UPI REPORT IS "NOTHING ORIGINAL BUT THE FACT THAT IT WAS TURNED OVER TO AN INTERNATIONAL WIRE SERVICE REVEALS THE TOTAL LACK OF SECURITY IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT OFFICES WHERE ONE PRESUMES THERE WAS TIGHT CONTROL." REY SAID THAT THE USG IS SHOWN TO BE LACKING IN "SERIOUSNESS TO PUT IT MILDLY." HE MUSES FURTHER: ONE CAN WONDER IF MAYBE WE ARE NOT WITNESSING MANEUVERS WHICH COULD BE THE RESULT OF RIVALRIES BETWEEN GROUPS THAT FORMULATE LATIN AMERICAN POLICY IN WASHINGTON OR INFLUENCE IT." ENGLISH-LANGUAGE "DAILY JOURNAL" (DJ) EDITORIALIZES JUNE 12 TO SAME EFFECT, QUOTES REY'S PIECE AND SPECULATES THAT REPORT COULD BE DELIBERATE LEAK, PLOY OF OPPOSITION ELEMENTS, RESULT OF JOURNALISTIC INITIATIVE OR SHEER CHANCE. IN ANY CASE, DJ CONCLUDES THAT WE LIVE IN "AN IMPERFECT WORLD AND THAT THINGS LIKE THIS SEEM TO HAPPEN EVEN IN THE BEST RUN DOMOCRACIES."

## 3. COPEI

PEDRO PABLO AGUILAR, IN FOLLOW-UP COMMENTS TO THOSE JUNE 10 (REF C) SAID THAT COPEI CATEGORICALLY REJECTS VIEW THAT

REPORT IS INSULT TO VENEZUELA PEOPLE. "JUST THE CONTRARY," SAYS AGUILAR. "TO BE INSULTING FOR VENEZUELA WOULD BE (TO PRESUME) THAT AT ELECTION TIME THE VENEZUELAN PEOPLE WOULD NOT CARE ABOUT THE MANIFEST INABILITY OF THE PRESENT ADMINISTRATION, THE WASTE OF IMMENSE RESOURCES...THE CONTINUING SCANDAL OF CRIMES AGAINST PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION." AGUILAR CONTINUED: "EVEN THE WORST FOLKLORIC DICTATORS OF LATIN AMERICA WOULD NOT TRY TO SILENCE THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS AS THE PRESENT AD REGIME IS APPARENTLY TRYING TO DO."  
"WE UNDERSTAND THE GOV IS VERY CONCERNED BUT THIS CONCERN SHOULD NOT LEAD IT TO TRY TO HAVE THE (US) EMBASSY DENY THE UPI (STORY). THE EMBASSY COULD NOT GO BEYOND WHAT IT ALREADY SAID THAT 'THE USG HAS TAKEN NO POSITION WITH REGARD TO VENEZUELAN ELECTIONS' AND UPI SHOULD NOT BE THE OBJECT  
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OF THE GOVERNMENT'S VERBAL ABUSE."

4. COMMENT: CONSALVI, THROUGH HIS MESURED COMMENTS, WAS ATTEMPTING TO CALM THE VERY TROUBLED WATERS, WHEREAS ARMAS WAS EXPRESSING A RATHER DEEPLY FELT VIEW THAT THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES OFTEN CONSPIRE TO INJURE THE INTEREST OF SMALL LDCS. AS THE COPEI COMMENTS INDICATE, THE LEAKS HAVE NOT ONLY THRUST US INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN, BUT EMBARRASSED PEREZ AND COMPLICATED THE AD CANDIDATE'S (PINERUA) POSITION. COPEI CAN BE EXPECTED TO GIVE NO QUARTER, SENSING THAT AD HAS BEEN THROWN OFF BALANCE. AS A COPEYANO POLITICAN WISTFULLY STATES TO US ONLY LAST WEEK, "I WISH THERE WERE SOME WAY THAT THE USG COULD BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE HERRERA CAMPAIGN." LITTLE DID HE KNOW HOW SOON HIS DESIRE WOULD BE FULFILLED.  
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## Message Attributes

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